



IOWA RECOVERY TIMES

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the Rebuild Iowa Office

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Flood Seminars Planned for Five Iowa Communities in June and July

Community seminars to help people better understand the 2008 Iowa floods and how Iowans can better plan and prepare for future flooding will take place in five communities beginning June 16 and ending July 19.

The events, which are free to the public, are titled “Anatomy of Iowa Floods: Preparing for the Future,” and will take place from 4 to 6 p.m. in Burlington, Cedar Rapids, Waverly, Mason City and Ames.

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Panelists answer audience questions at a similar flood seminar held March 10 in Des Moines.

Programs to Assist Additional Disaster-Affected Businesses

Several new and improved programs have been implemented to assist flood-affected businesses.

The Loan Interest Supplement Program provides funds to business owners to pay for the interest on an SBA or private loan for disaster recovery. The date a business must close on their physical disaster loan has been extended. Those businesses that have incurred a physical disaster loan after June

30, 2009, or anticipate getting a loan through June 30, 2010, are now eligible for this program.

The Equipment Reimbursement Assistance Program provides financial assistance to businesses that had equipment, machinery, inventory, supplies, and furniture losses. This new program now includes both businesses who owned their own building, as well as those who leased rental space, during the 2008

disasters. The application deadline is Dec. 31, 2010. Any business awarded funds must be located in a presidentially-declared county at the time assistance is provided.

There have also been modifications to the Equipment Business Rental Assistance Program. The percentage reimbursement for equipment has increased from 50% to 75% and the

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ECICOG Celebrates New Housing Accomplishments

ECICOG and the Housing Trust Fund of Johnson County will celebrate their recent accomplishments in single-family new construction at an event in North Liberty on June 30, 2010, at 10:00 a.m.

As part of disaster recovery, the Iowa Department of Economic Development (IDED) made available \$3.8 million to the ECICOG region to provide homebuyer assistance for 66 new single-family housing units. On June 30, ECICOG and its recovery partners will commemorate the completion of more than 40 new housing units in the region through this program.



YOU'RE INVITED TO A RIBBON-CUTTING

Come learn how the East Central Iowa Council of Governments (ECICOG) is leveraging disaster funding with federal homebuyer tax credits to help overcome Iowa's housing shortage.

Join us as we celebrate these programs and welcome one Iowa family to their new home.

When: Wednesday, June 30
10:00 a.m.

Where: 1340 Nicholas Lane, North Liberty

Special Guests:

Joe O'Hern, Iowa Finance Authority Director
Tim Waddell, IDED Community Development Division Administrator

For more information or to RSVP, contact:

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Sponsored by ECICOG with the Housing Trust Fund of Johnson County

ECICOG
www.ecicog.org



New Iowa National Guard Program Taps Retirees for Disaster Recovery

Making sure accurate information is relayed immediately following a disaster, whether natural or man-made, is of great importance to the Iowa National Guard during emergencies.

That's the main reason the Guard developed a new program called the Initial County Assessment Contact or I-CAC for short, said Maj. Russ Bossard, officer in charge of the Joint Operations Center, and plans operation officer at the Joint Forces Headquarters in Johnston.

Once a disaster strikes a particular county, the new program will utilize retired Guard members living in that area to provide immediate assessment information to Guard leadership. In conjunction with Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management efforts, information provided by the retirees will be used by Guard leadership to determine if, when, where, and how many Guard members should be deployed to the disaster area and what types of resources may be

needed to respond. Similar programs are already being used in several other states, Bossard said.

The 2008 disasters made the Guard aware of the need for the program when more than 4,000 troops were deployed to assist with the floods and tornadoes. The Guard is enacting the program now because of the huge benefit and efficiency seen in 2008 by placing liaison teams at the county level.

Retirees familiar with their counties and local cities are helpful to Joint Operations Center staff because they can relay information such as where detours can be taken if a bridge is out or specific directions to a location. That type of information will help Guard members deliver the needed assistance to the area more quickly, Bossard explained.

"Once we have people in all the counties, we know we won't have to wait for someone from Des Moines to arrive on the scene to begin relaying information to us, wherever a disaster might occur," he said.

The first Guard retiree to begin the program is Dick Fullerton of New London, located in Henry County in southeast Iowa. Fullerton, who was a Guard member from 1965-2004, has been named the special project officer for I-CAC and is working to get the program off the ground.

Bossard and Fullerton said I-CAC is designed to increase "the boots on the ground" for assessment that can come directly to the Iowa National Guard. He emphasized the I-CAC program is meant to complement work being done by Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management, and the county emergency managers.

The expectation is for each retiree to develop relationships with the county emergency manager and staff in their area, as well as other agencies or people in the community involved in immediate disaster response.

Fullerton commented, "I feel anytime we, as retirees, can continue to serve the state, it is a great program. I-CAC is good for the counties and good for Iowans in general."

Meetings for Cities, Counties Interested in I-JOBS Disaster Prevention Funds

The Iowa Finance Authority (IFA) is hosting several regional meetings in June and July to educate city and county leaders about the I-JOBS Disaster Prevention Grant Program.

Governor Chet Culver signed an extension of the original I-JOBS legislation in April, which included the creation of the Disaster Prevention Grant Program. The program makes available \$30 million for grants to cities and counties to assist in the development and completion of construction of local public buildings in a manner that mitigates damages from future disasters, including flooding. Only cities and counties are eligible applicants. The Iowa Finance Authority (IFA) administers the program, and the I-JOBS Board of Directors will review and approve applications for funding.

Additional information about the I-JOBS initiative, including details about the Disaster Prevention Grant Program, is available at www.ijobsiowa.gov.

Meeting Dates and Locations

- **June 16 – Ankeny;** 10:00 a.m., Courtyard Marriott, 2405 SE Creekview Dr.
- **June 16 – Fort Dodge;** 2:00 p.m., Iowa Central Community College, Applied Science Technology Building, 330 Ave. M
- **June 17 – Waterloo;** 10:00 a.m., Ramada, 205 West 4th Street
- **June 21 – Creston;** 10:00 a.m., Southwest Iowa Community College, Center Room 180, 1501 W. Townline St.
- **June 25 – Webcast;** Time TBD
- **June 28 – Sioux City;** Time TBD, Clarion Hotel, 707 4th St.
- **July 1 – Webcast;** Time TBD
- **July 2 – Muscatine;** Time TBD, Strahan Hall (Small Theater), 152 Colorado St.
- **Additional July date TBD – Webcast;** Time TDB

BUSINESS PROGRAMS (continued from page 1)

cap increased from \$50,000 to \$75,000. The application deadline for this program has been extended to Dec. 31, 2010.

A new program called the Flood Insurance Reimbursement Program provides financial assistance to reimburse businesses for the cost of one year of flood insurance. Businesses are eligible if they (1) had water in their building as a result of the 2008 disaster(s), involving overland flow or sewer backup; and/or (2) are located in the 100 or 500-year floodplain. Under criteria 2, businesses that located to either floodplain subsequent to the disaster may also be eligible for assistance. Reimbursement is for a one-time, one year of coverage, up to \$5,000 per qualified business. The flood insurance policy start date must fall between Jan. 1, 2010 and Dec. 31, 2010.

In-home businesses are not eligible for this program.

The application deadline for the Commercial Landlord Rental Revenue Gap Assistance Program and the Residential Landlord Business Support Program remains June 30, 2010.

Businesses are encouraged to turn in applications as soon as possible since funds are awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Summaries of these programs can be found on the Iowa Dept. of Economic Development's Web site at www.iowalifechanging.com.

For monthly funding updates on Iowa's 2008 disaster recovery, visit the RIO Web site at www.rio.iowa.gov and click on the "Disaster Funds for Iowa" button.

The Rebuild Iowa Office



The Rebuild Iowa Office is tasked with ensuring that the state rebuilds safer, stronger and smarter than before the 2008 disasters. The RIO is supported by a professional staff made up of existing state employees and hired full-time staff to allow it to achieve its mission, vision, goals and objectives. Throughout its initiatives, the RIO is committed to a recovery and rebuilding process that is fair and equitable to everyone.

www.rio.iowa.gov

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Rebuild Iowa Award for Service Update

The Rebuild Iowa Office would like to thank the individuals who nominated their fellow Iowans for the Rebuild Iowa Award for Service.

Nominees will be contacted by the RIO, and award recipients will be recognized at public ceremonies in July.

The Rebuild Iowa Award for Service recognizes Iowans for outstanding work in Iowa's disaster recovery efforts. This

award serves to recognize, promote and honor individuals and groups for their exemplary service in rebuilding Iowa safer, stronger and smarter after the floods and tornadoes of 2008.

The application deadline for the Rebuild Iowa Award for Service has passed. For more information about the award program, visit the RIO Web site at www.rio.iowa.gov.

FLOOD SEMINARS (continued from page 1)

Topics to be covered include trends in Iowa precipitation; trends in water run-off; work of the Iowa Flood Center; floodplain management strategies; water quality; the Cedar Falls Floodplain Initiative; rural-urban watershed coalition building; and a review of state public policy issues. The presentations will be followed by a question and answer session.

"We are excited to be a part of this effort to educate Iowans about what communities can do to reduce future flood damage," said Rebuild Iowa Office Executive Director Lt. General Ron Dardis. "Nearly 700 Iowa communities were impacted by the 2008 disasters. Events like this help ensure Iowans are better prepared for future disasters and are knowledgeable about what possible flood protection measures are available for their communities."

Following each forum, refreshments will be served and a limited number of free copies of the book, "A Watershed Year: Anatomy of the Iowa Floods of 2008," will be available to attendees.

The seminars are being hosted by the University of Iowa's Center for Global & Regional Environmental Research, Rebuild Iowa Office, UNI Center for Energy and Environmental Education, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Iowa State University Extension, Iowa League of Cities and the Iowa State Association of Counties.

Flood Seminar Schedule, 4 to 6 p.m.

- **Burlington:** Wednesday, June 16, at the Burlington City Council Chambers
- **Cedar Rapids:** Monday, June 21, at Kirkwood Comm. College Training & Outreach Services Bldg. in Marion
- **Waverly:** Wednesday, June 30, at the Waverly-Shell Rock High School Auditorium
- **Mason City:** Wednesday, July 14, at the North Iowa Community College Muse-Norris Conference Center
- **Ames:** Monday, July 19, at the Ames City Council Chambers

Clip & Save...

Iowa Disaster Recovery Contacts

Rebuild Iowa Office (www.rio.iowa.gov)	866.849.0323
Ticket to Hope crisis counseling (www.tickettohope.org)	800.447.1985 (the Iowa Concern Hotline)
Iowa Mortgage Help (www.IowaMortgageHelp.com)	877.622.4866
National Flood Insurance Program (www.floodsmart.gov)	888.379.9531
Federal Emergency Management Agency (www.fema.gov)	800.621.FEMA (3362)
TTY for hearing/speech impaired	800.462.7585
U.S. Small Business Administration (www.sba.gov)	800.659.2955